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Our Reference: 9351-80

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL 37 CFR 1.102

The Commissioner of Patents
& Trademarks
Washington, D.C.
USA 20231

Dear Sir:

Re: United States Patent Application No. 09/986,637
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING HYDROGEN INSIDE
OF A FUEL CELL
Filed: November 9, 2001
Inventors: Xuesong Chen et al.

Applicants hereby petition for this application to be made special, in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.102(b) and (c). More specifically, applicants refer to MPEP 708.02, §VI.

This invention is concerned with fuel cell technology. Many authorities now recognize that development of fuel cell technology is key to reducing energy consumption, and making better use of existing fossil fuels, eg. natural gas and petroleum. This was recently recognized in President Bush's State of the Union Speech in which he announced a 1.2 billion dollar FreedomCAR and fuel cell initiative to develop hydrogen-powered fuel cells. As he noted in the speech, one of the intentions of this initiative is to "...reverse America's growing dependence on foreign oil by developing the technology needed for commercially viable hydrogen-powered fuel cells".

please send your reply to

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The present invention is directly concerned with this technology and this initiative. More specifically, this invention is concerned with chemical hydride systems. One key issue with hydrogen-powered fuel cells for automotive and other applications is the storage and supply of hydrogen. Chemical hydride systems offer the potential for storing significant quantities of hydrogen in a compact and efficient manner. In contrast, to store hydrogen in gaseous form is difficult. To store significant quantity of gaseous hydrogen requires extremely high pressures and development of exotic pressure vessel technology.

Accordingly, it is submitted that this invention clearly falls in both Category A and B of MPEP 708.02, §VI, since it relates to the discovery or development of energy resources (Category A) and to the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy and resources (Category B).

Accordingly, grant of the necessary Petition to Make Special and prompt examination of this application is requested.

It is further noted that, for this application, applicants submitted an information disclosure statement setting out all the art presently known to the applicants.

Respectfully submitted,



H. Samuel Frost
Registration No. 31,696
/It

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JUN 10 1993
TECHNICAL STAFF